



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Shoichi HIRANO et al.**

Group Art Unit: **4145**

Application Number: **10/564,091**

Examiner: **Altrev Sykes**

Filed: **June 20, 2006**

Confirmation Number: **7182**

For: **METHOD FOR PROVIDING A DETERGENT-FREE WASHING
FUNCTION AND FIBER PRODUCT CAPABLE OF WASHING
WITHOUT USING A DETERGENT**

Attorney Docket Number: **053482**

Customer Number: **38834**

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 6, 2008

Sir:

I, Shoichi Hirano, hereby declare and state that:

1. I am one of the inventors of U.S. Serial No. 10/564,091.
2. I am one of the inventors of JP2000-017572, which is now registered as Japanese Patent No. 3385399.
3. JP2000-017572 discloses providing an anti-yellowing function with a cellulose based

textile product. JP2000-017572 discloses a method to avoid the textile products from yellowing.

The yellowing occurs when the dirt adhered to the textile products is oxidized. See paragraph [0003].

4. U.S. Serial No. 10/564,091 describes weakening the binding force of the components of stains and dirt to the fibers without using a surfactant.

5. When I invented the treatment method disclosed in JP2000-017572, I did not consider that that the textile products treated in accordance with JP2000-017572 would weaken the binding force of the components of stains and dirt to the fibers without using a surfactant.

6. When filing a patent application of JP2000-017572, I thought that it would be necessary to develop a different treatment method in order to weaken the binding force of the components of stains and dirt to the fibers without using a surfactant. I did not teach or suggest in JP2000-017572 that the disclosed textile products have weakened the binding force of the components of stains and dirt to the fibers without using a surfactant.

7. Later, I discovered that the textile products treated in accordance with JP2000-017572 have weakened the binding force of the components of stains and dirt to the fibers without using a surfactant. This discovery made it possible to wash the textile product without using a detergent.

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The result of the present invention is unexpected from the teaching in JP2000-017572.

8. As described at page 1, line 17 to page 2, line 13, a textile product which can wash out oily components without using a detergent is long felt but unsolved needs.
9. The consumption of water can be significantly reduced by the present invention. The effect of the present invention is unexpected.
10. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under the laws of the United State and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Shoichi Hirano 6th June, 2008
Shoichi Hirano Date